



LEGAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE
SUBCOMMITTEE

Feedback Form for Commission Meeting

Delaware Hispanic Commission Legal & Social Justice Subcommittee Minutes

The goal of the Legal and Social Justice Subcommittee of the Delaware Hispanic Commission is to build awareness of and engage in issues of social justice and legal matters affecting Hispanics in Delaware by recommending policy priorities and keeping the Delaware Hispanic Commission informed about legal, legislative and social justice issues affecting Delaware Hispanics.

Subcommittee Meeting

Tuesday June 26th, 2012

Start Time: 5:34PM

End Time: 6:46PM

Location – Teleconference

Conference Call Number: 1-800-391-2548

Pass Code: 40097535#

I. Call to order & Roll Call

- Meeting called to order at 5:34PM

Commission Subcommittee Members (Present) – Craig de Mariana Aleman, Esq. (Co-Chair) Jissell Martinez (Co-Chair), and Rev. Steven Uhthoff

Non-Commission Subcommittee Attendees (Present) – Ana Velasquez (LACC), Juwan Montalvo (University of Delaware, Campus Alliance de La Raza), Maria Marquez (University of Delaware)

Commission Subcommittee Members (Not Present) - Tanisha Merced, Esq.

II. Old Business

- Goal/Objective Statement for the Legal & Social Justice Subcommittee
 - i. The goal of the Legal and Social Justice Subcommittee of the Delaware Hispanic Commission is to build awareness of and engage in issues of social justice and legal matters affecting Hispanics in Delaware by recommending policy priorities and keeping the Delaware Hispanic Commission informed about legal, legislative and social justice issues affecting Delaware Hispanics.
- Issues identified/areas of focus of the subcommittee
 - i. *Update on JP Court Pilot Program*
 - 1. C. Aleman presented to approximately 12 people from the ACLU regarding the need to expand the “Spanish Days” that currently exists in Kent JP Court but not in New Castle and Sussex County. C. Aleman briefly discussed the disparities across JP Courts statewide and the lack of consistent availability of a DOJ representative during “Spanish days” which allow non-English speakers to plead down charges.
 - a. **Action** - C. Aleman will continue update the subcommittee on this issue.
 - ii. *Basic laws and social rights awareness in Latino community*
 - 1. No discussion on this topic.
 - iii. *Reporting of crimes especially in Southern Delaware*
 - 1. J. Martinez spoke about the Stewards of Children (Darkness to Light) training that is available to be offered in Delaware. Making this training available to Spanish speakers and to the Latino community can address the reporting of crimes in the area of Child abuse. The Stewards of Children training is the only nationally recognized program proven to increase knowledge, improve attitudes and change child protective behaviors.
 - a. **Action** – J. Martinez will follow up with local organizations such as the LACC, La Esperanza and Prevent Child Abuse Delaware to learn about the availability of this training in the Latino community and for Spanish speakers.
- Recruitment of non-Commission members
 - i. A. Velasquez was appointed by Commissioner M. Matos to participate in the Legal and Social Justice Subcommittee. A. Velasquez is the Director of

Prevention and Advocacy at the Latin American Community Center. She is also involved with the Delaware DREAM Act and NCLR Advocacy Days.

- ii. J. Martinez recruited M. Marquez and J. Montalvo from the University of Delaware to participate in the Legal and Social Justice Subcommittee. M. Marquez is the former President of the UD student organization – HOLA. J. Montalvo is the current President of the UD student organizations – Campus Alliance de La Raza (CALR).
- iii. A. Velasquez asked about our policy regarding having other people attend the Legal and Social Justice Subcommittee meetings. J. Martinez stated that subcommittee meetings are open to the public. Information (agenda and minutes) regarding future meetings are posted on the State of Delaware website and can be found by clicking the following link - <http://egov.delaware.gov/pmc/>

1. **Action** – A. Velasquez will be contacting folks from Delaware's Dream Team that may be interested in attending DHC's Legal and Social Justice Subcommittee meetings.

III. New Business

- Obama's Executive Order for the Dreamers
 - i. J. Martinez provided a brief overview regarding President Barack Obama's Executive Order which stops the deportation and begins the process of granting work permits for eligible students. The E.O. decriminalizes the status of DREAMers. The President's E.O. primarily affects undocumented students who came to the U.S. under the age of 16 and are under the age of 30, have resided in the U.S. for 5+ years, is currently in school, has obtained at least a GED or is an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. military and has not been convicted of a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense or multiple misdemeanor offenses. The process for applying for work permits will not begin for at least another 60 days as the mechanism for applying has not been determined by the Federal government.
 - ii. C. Aleman spoke about potential fraudulent activity in which people ask eligible DREAMers for money to apply for grant permits. The public should be made aware that the process for apply for work permits under the E.O. has not been determined for the Federal government and may not be released for another 60 days.
 - iii. M. Marquez asked if you had to be in the process of deportation in order to become eligible to apply for work permits. The answer is no.
 - iv. Meeting attendees continued to discuss the potential impact of the Executive Order on Delaware Hispanics. Attendees spoke about the need to assure that we have the mechanisms in place to ensure that the eligible DREAMers receive assistance in filling out work permit applications once the federal government determines the application

process. Attendees also discussed contacting media such as El Tiempo Hispano and Hoy en Delaware as well as local organizations such as LACC, La Esperanza. La Red, Westside Health Clinic and local churches to spread the word about the E.O. and potential fraudulent activity.

- v. A. Velasquez informed the subcommittee that Senator Marshall sent a letter to Governor Markell regarding the President's E.O. She also discussed the resurgence of students that want to obtain their GED because it may allow them to qualify for work permits under Obama's E.O. A. Velasquez also discussed the lack of places in Delaware that offer GED courses and tests in Spanish.

1. **Action** – J. Martinez will share information regarding impact of Obama's E.O. on the resurgence of GED's with the Education Subcommittee.

2. **Action** – J. Martinez and A. Velasquez will work together to contact the media and local nonprofits to spread the word about potential fraudulent activity.

- Supreme Court Rule on AZ SB 1070

- i. J. Martinez provided a brief overview of the Supreme Court Ruling on Arizona's Senate Bill 1070. Justices approved the law requiring police to check the immigration status of those they stop for other reasons. The ruling struck down language that would have criminalized the act of an immigrant moving around the state without paperwork proving they are lawfully present and provisions that rendered the act of seeking or holding a job if unauthorized to live in the US a state crime. Court also overturned a section that would have allowed police to make warrantless arrests.
- ii. Attendees discussed the impact of SB 1070. C. Aleman stated that the portion of the law approved by the Justices regarding checking the immigration status is a practice already incorporated in most states as part of asking for your identification when a police officer stops you for a legitimate reasons (for example, for having a broken tail light).

- Funding availability

- i. J. Martinez discussed DHC availability of funds for Fiscal Year 2013 and requested ideas on how to use the funds.
- ii. Ideas submitted by the attendees
 1. Get Out the Latino Vote initiative – members discussed the possibility of utilizing the funds to encourage Latino voters to vote in the 2012 election utilizing a non partisan approach. Funding can be used to support voter registration initiatives in the Latino community.
 2. Funding can be used to initiate a public awareness campaign regarding Obama's E.O. and its impact on DREAMers.
 3. DHC public awareness campaign by purchasing vendor tables at the Hispanic Festivals in Millsboro and Wilmington. Funding

can be used to participate in the Puerto Rican Parade in Wilmington. This can be used as an opportunity to raise awareness about the new Delaware Hispanic Commission and subcommittees can utilize this opportunity to get information out about particular issues. The Legal & Social Justice Subcommittee can spread the word regarding the impact of Obama's E.O.

a. Action – J. Martinez will submit ideas discussed by the subcommittee to E. Ayala to be discussed at the July's DHC meeting.

IV. Open Discussion

- Delaware DREAM Act
 - i. Attendees discussed the failure of the passage of the Delaware DREAM Act. Lessons about the experience were discussed.

V. Upcoming Events/Initiatives

- Luncheon
 - i. Participants discussed the possibility of scheduling a face-to-face luncheon meeting in October so that the subcommittee can meet face-to-face. Potential location discussed – Dover. Exact time and location – TBD

VI. Next Meeting(s)

- DHC Tuesday 7/7/12 10AM
- Legal & Social Justice Subcommittee Tuesday 8/14/12 5:30PM
 - i. *Location – Teleconference*
Conference Call Number: 1-800-391-2548

Pass Code: 78273659#

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:46PM